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An Annotated List of the Ants of Mississippi (Hym.).

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(Continued from page 85.)

Subfamily CAMPONOTINAE.

54.—**Prenolepis imparis** Say.

Holly Springs; A. and M. College; Yazoo City. This species builds its nests in clay-like soils where there is an abundance of moisture. Very characteristic earthen pellets are distributed around the nest's entrance. The workers are very fond of honey dew and are often found in attendance on insects which excrete this substance. The writer has often seen workers whose gasters were so distended from feeding on honey dew that they were almost unable to walk. Some of the workers act as storehouses for their sisters, during periods when food is scarce, and are known as repletes. This species often enters houses in its search for food.

P. imparis may be distinguished from the other species of *Prenolepis* here mentioned by its larger size and by its pronounced more or less cylindrical mesonotum.

55.—**P. (Nylanderia) bruesi** Whlr.

A. and M. College. This is a much smaller species than *imparis.* Nests are built under the bark of logs or stumps, or under stones. The workers are also fond of honey dew.

56.—**P. (Nylanderia) vividula** Nyl.

A. and M. College. This ant is very closely related to *bruesi* and it is almost impossible to distinguish the two unless male forms are present. The genital appendages of the males of the two species are quite distinct showing that these cannot be the same species.

57.—**P. longicornis** Latr.

Gulfport; Biloxi. The workers of this imported species can be recognized by their slender forms and by their exceedingly long legs and antennae. These ants infest houses, stores, cafeterias, etc., but are far from being as troublesome as the Argentine ant, which is the house pest pre-eminent in Mississippi. The workers run very swiftly, darting here and there, as if devoid of any sense of general direction; this term has earned for them the name of "crazy ant."

58.—**Lasius niger** var. **americanus** Emery.

A. and M. College; Lula; Trimcane. The corn, or cotton field ant, as it is generally known, does not seem to be common in Mississippi, although collecting for it has been done in numerous localities in the state. Nests are constructed in the soil or under stones in the open. The workers are given to attending plant lice and their relation to one species, *Aphis-maidi-radicis* has attracted much attention. Because of this peculiar relation the ant is considered of economic importance.

This ant can be separated from the species given below by its much darker color and by the presence of three-jointed maxillary palpi. Workers when crushed have a very strong formic acid odor.

59.—**L. (Acanthomyops) interjectus** Mayr.

A. and M. College. This is the largest ant of the subgenus *Acanthomyops*. Nests are built in the soil under stones or logs. The workers are also fond of attending subterranean plant lice, mealy bugs, etc. The ants seem to shun light and are never seen on the surface unless unearthed or exposed.

L. interjectus can be distinguished from *americanus* by its six-jointed maxillary palpi, its yellow color, its shining appearance and the presence of a peculiar lemon verbena-like odor.

60.—**Formica pallide-fulva** Latr.

Tupelo; A. and M. College. This ant nests in the soil under stones or in the open in fields and pastures, seeming to prefer a clay, or a clay loam soil. The workers are very timid and cowardly and are made slaves of by other species of *Formica*. They feed largely on insects but are also fond of honey dew.

This pale yellow species can be easily separated from the other two forms mentioned under this genus. It differs from the subspecies *schaufussi* in being more slender and less robust and in lacking the hairs on the gular and petiolar borders. *F. subsericeae* is a black species which is densely covered with a silk-like pubescence.

61.—**F. pallide-fulva** subsp. **schaufussi** Mayr.

A. and M. College. The workers of this form have the same habits as those of the species. It is also made slaves of by other species of *Formica*.

62.—**F. fusca subsericeae** Say.

Caesar. This species does not seem to be common in Mississippi, in fact it is much less common than the two preceding species. It has habits similar to those species and is made a slave of by other species of the genus.

63.—**Camponotus castaneus** Latr.

Mt. Olive; Ocean Springs. This large, yellowish, or castaneous colored species lives in the soil under stones in open woodlands. The workers are rather timid and probably nocturnal. This species is fond of honey dew but no doubt feeds on insects also.

C. castaneus is easily distinguished from other ants by its large size and by the more or less uniform yellowish or castaneous color of all the various phases.

64.—**C. castaneus** subsp. **americanus** Mayr.

Oakland; Neshoba. This subspecies has the same habits as *castaneus*. The workers can be distinguished from those of the species by the dark colored head, the remainder of the body being a uniform yellowish or castaneous color.

65.—**C. herculeanus** subsp. **pennsylvanicus** DeGeer.

"The carpenter ant" is widely distributed throughout the state and is one of the most common ants in Mississippi. Nests are built in more or less faulty or decayed trees, the ants sometimes simply honey-combing the wood with their galleries and chambers. McCook states that a queen is able to establish a nest and raise her first brood unaided. Workers are very fond of honey dew and are often found in attendance on plant lice, tree hoppers, etc.

The workers of this ant can be recognized by their large form, their black color and by the golden hairs and pubescence on their bodies.

66.—**C. herculeanus** subsp. **pennsylvanicus** var. **ferrugineus** Fabr.

Oakland; Neshoba; A. and M. College. This is a beautiful color variety of *pennsylvanicus* which has similar habits but not quite so wide a distribution. In this variety the workers have the thorax, petiole, coxae, femora, and base of first gastric segment yellowish ferruginous; sometimes the pronotum and the mesonotum are black. The other portions of the body are black, with the exception of the funiculi, mandibles, anterior border of head, tibiae and tarsi which are deep red.

67.—**C. socius** Roger.

Waynesboro; Benoit. This imported South American species has been found at the above named localities in Mississippi. The writer has seen specimens of this ant in Dr. Wheeler's collections from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Alabama. Evidently it is spreading throughout the Southern States, for when Dr. Wheeler published his paper on the ants of the genus *Camponotus* in 1910, this species was then only known from Florida. Nothing is known concerning the nesting and other habits of *socius*.

The major worker has a ferruginous red head, the mandibles and scapes are darker, with the anterior border of clypeus and cheek black. The gaster is black with golden yellow posterior borders to each segment and a broad transverse golden band on the first and another at the base of the second segment. Because of its very distinct coloration one has no difficulty in separating this from any of the other species of *Camponotus* here mentioned.

68.—**C. caryae** Fitch.

This species is widely distributed throughout the state. Nests are constructed under the bark of trees, in twigs, or occasionally, in galls. The nests are rather small and contain very few individuals as compared with nests of other species of *Camponotus*. The workers are very fond of honey dew and may be found crawling over the trees in search of this substance. They are rather timid and hard to capture. *C. caryae* and its various subspecies and varieties are all similar in that the workers have the clypeus cut out, or emarginate in the middle.

The workers are usually shining black, but occasionally some specimens show considerable red on the appendages, the articulation of the joints, etc.

69.—**C. caryae** var. **minutus** Emery.

This is a smaller and paler form of the species. The coloration is highly variable. The habits of the two are the same.

The worker major differs from that of *caryae* in that it is smaller and that it possesses a reddish, or yellowish, thorax and petiole. The legs and antennae are paler and the mandibles, sides and lower surfaces of the head red or brown.

70.—**C. caryae** var. **decipiens** Emery.

Louisville; Starkville; A. and M. College. These ants have been found nesting in the twigs of fig and white ash, also in galls on oak trees. The workers have reddish yellow heads and thoraces and black abdomens. *Decipiens* bears a close resemblance to *rasilis* in color, but is smaller than this subspecies and has much darker appendages. The gaster is black with pale yellow margins to the segments.

71.—**C. caryae** subsp. **rasilis** Whlr.

Starkville. As stated above, this subspecies bears a close resemblance to the variety *decipiens,* but is larger and of a lighter yellowish red color, without the noticeable infuscation on the legs, antennae and head of the worker. Nests are made in galls or in twigs of trees. Occasionally, the workers invade houses, showing a decided fondness for sweets such as syrup, jams, sugar, etc.

72.—**C. caryae** subsp. **rasilis** var. **pavidus** Whlr.

Starkville; Sibley. Nests of this variety have been found under the bark of a dead oak twig and in the stem of elder. The workers of this variety are similar to those of *rasilis* in the color of the head, thorax, petiole and appendages, but the gaster is yellow at the base. The yellow of the gaster may cover all of two segments or only the base of the first segment.

73.—**C. caryae** var. **pardus** Whlr.

The workers of this variety are small, averaging about 5.5 mm. In color they are very variable, even specimens from the same colony showing a wide variation in this respect. Typical specimens have dark brown, or black heads, with ivory yellow thoraces which are spotted with brown, and the base of the gasters often banded with yellow.

74.—**C. (Colobopsis) impressus** Roger.

A. and M. College. A nest of this species was found in a pecan twig. The ant probably nests in the twigs of other plants also. This and all other forms of the subgenus *Colobopsis* can be distinguished by the truncate head of the soldier form.

C. impressus can be distinguished from the other two species mentioned here by the shape of the soldier's head, the sides of which are distinctly parallel.

75.—**C. (Colobopsis) mississippiensis** Smith.

Tupelo; Starkville; A. and M. College; Sibley. This species has been found nesting in the twigs of white ash and in galls on red oak. It is the most common species of *Colobopsis* in this section of Mississippi. The workers have been observed to feed on honey dew.

C. mississippiensis can be distinguished from *impressus* by the shape of the head of the soldier, the sides being divergent anteriorly; and from *fraxinicola* by the anterior portion of the head being deeply concave and sharply margined, while that of *fraxinicola* is blunt with the clypeus projecting above the general truncated surface.

76.—**C. pylartes** subsp. **fraxinicola** Smith.

A. and M. College; Starkville. This species also nests in the twigs of white ash. It is not as common a species of *Colobopsis* in this locality as *missssissippiensis* but is more common than *impressus*.